

ROBERT KIRKMAN

Creator, Writer

CHARLIE ADLARD Penciler, Inker, Cover

CLIFF RATHBURN
Gray Tones, Cover Colors, Back Cover

RUS WOOTON

Letterer

Previously:

After escaping from Woodbury, Rick, Michonne, Glenn, Alice and Martinez returned to find the prison overrun by zombies. A hectic fight into the prison yard led them to discover all but Otis had survived the ordeal. With family and friends reunited they began the arduous task of cleaning up the prison, securing it once more. After all the work was completed, Martinez slipped away--leaving Rick to assume he'd gone back to Woodbury to reveal the location of the prison.

For Image Comics



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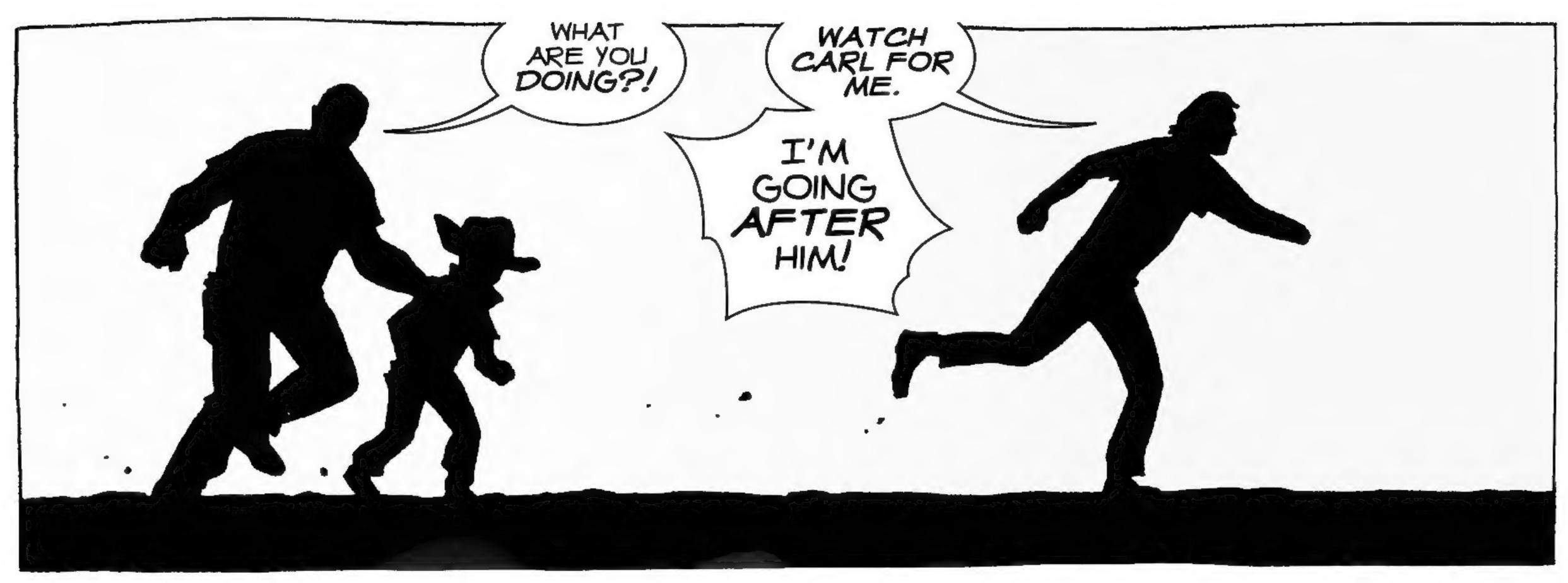
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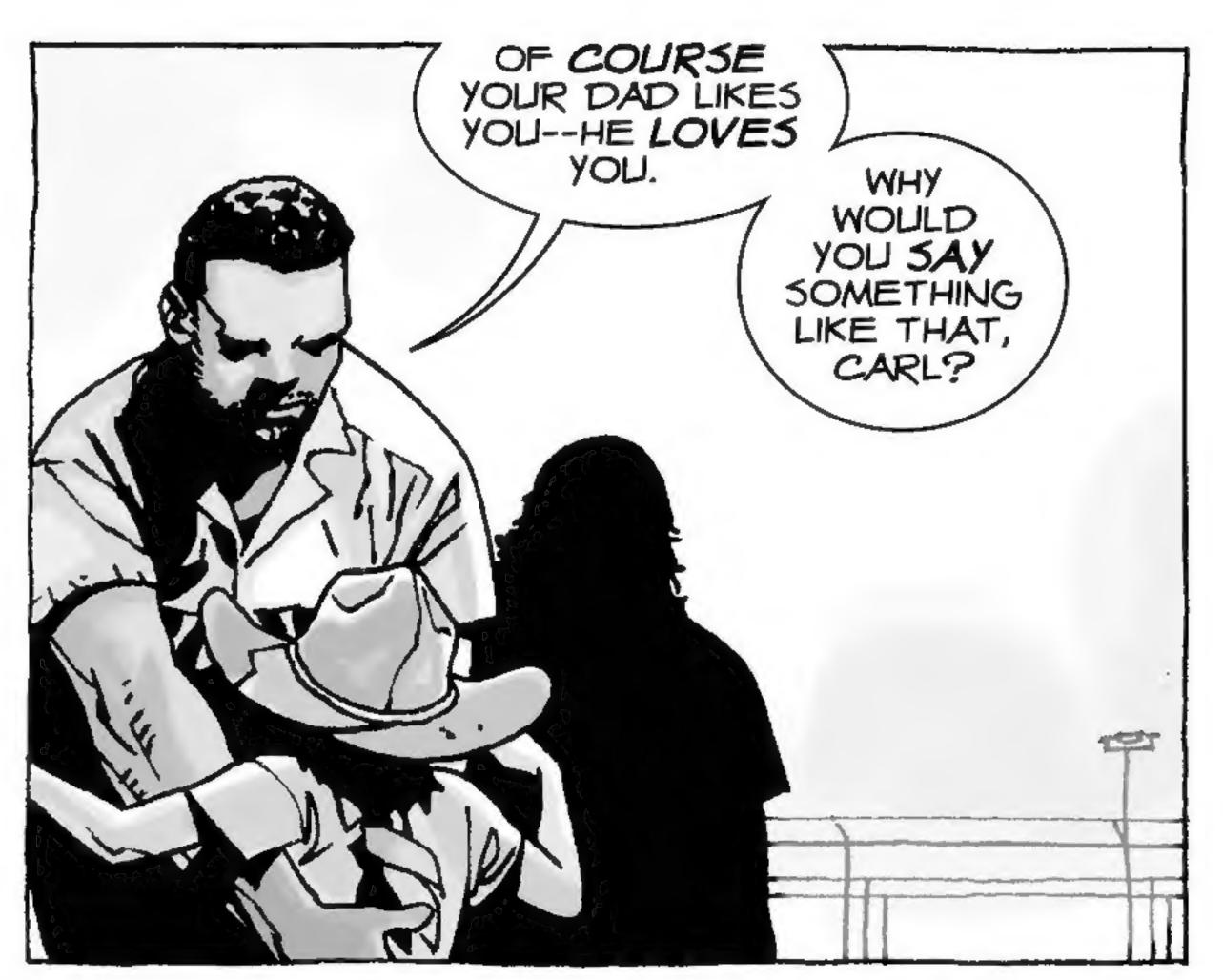








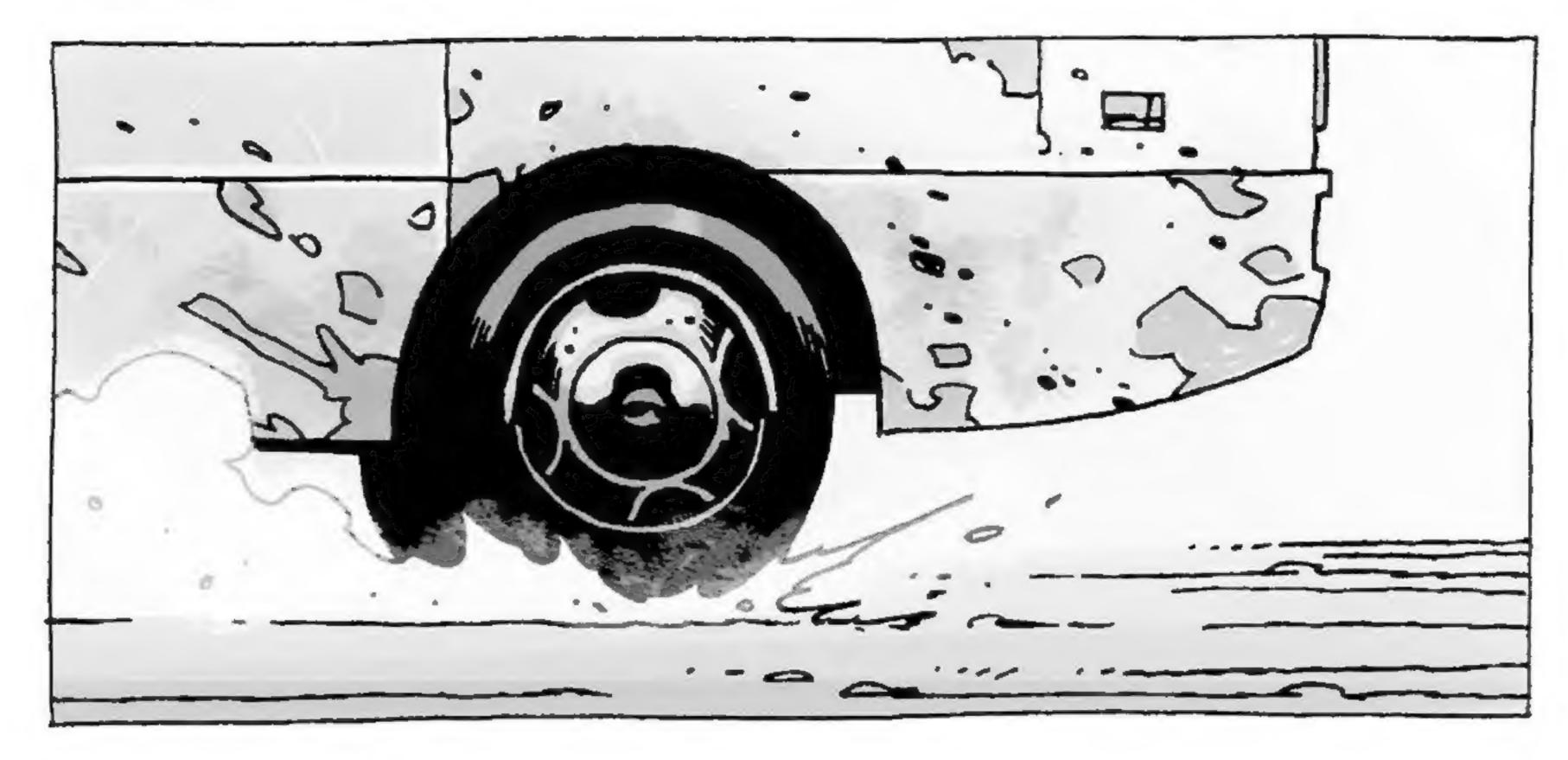
















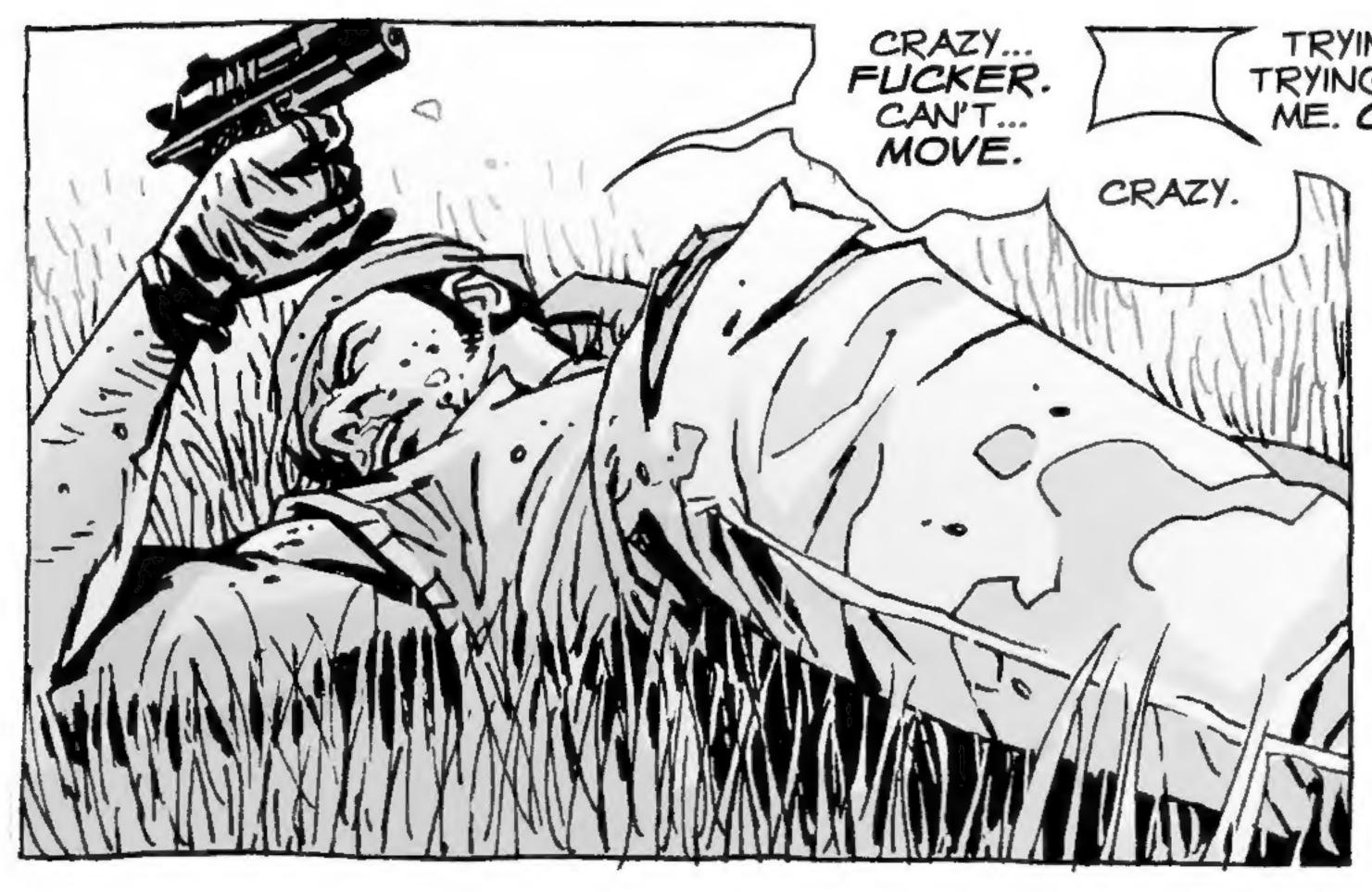


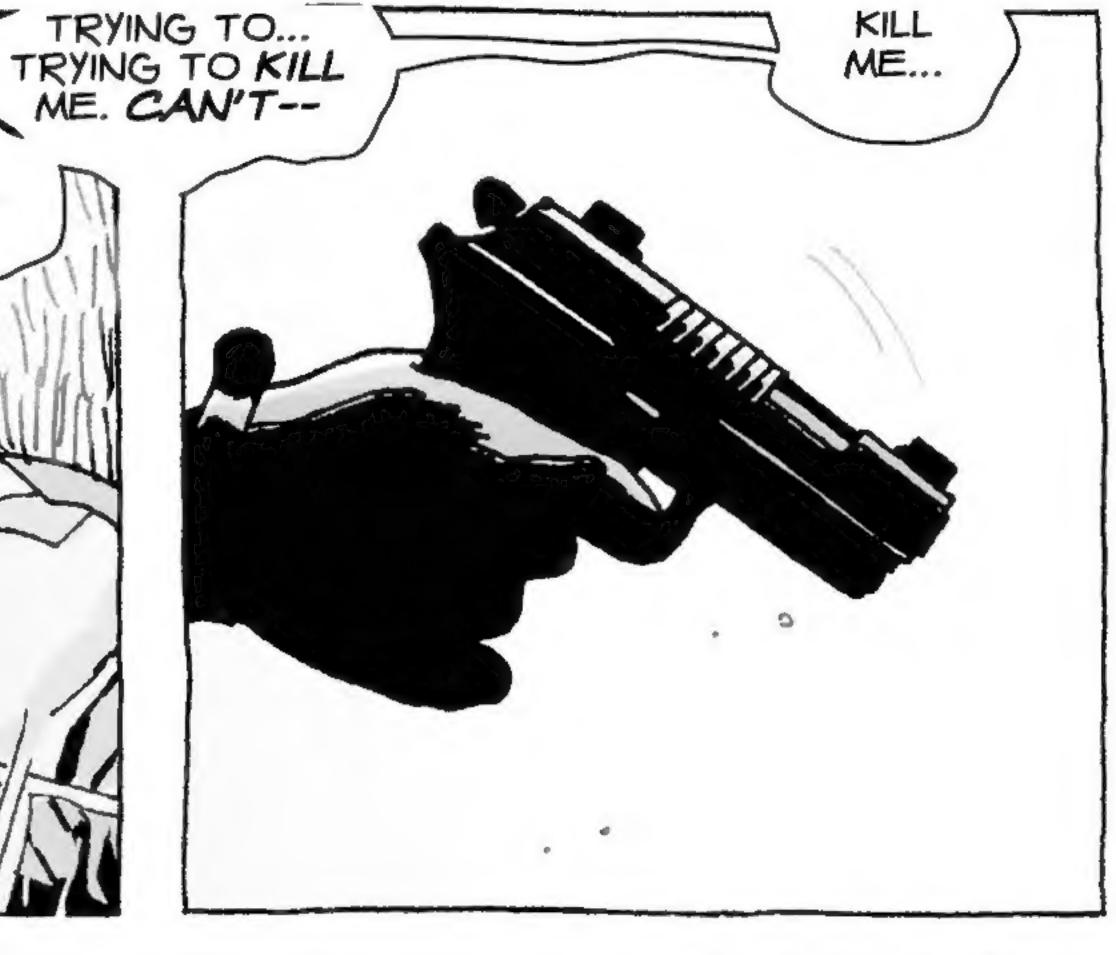








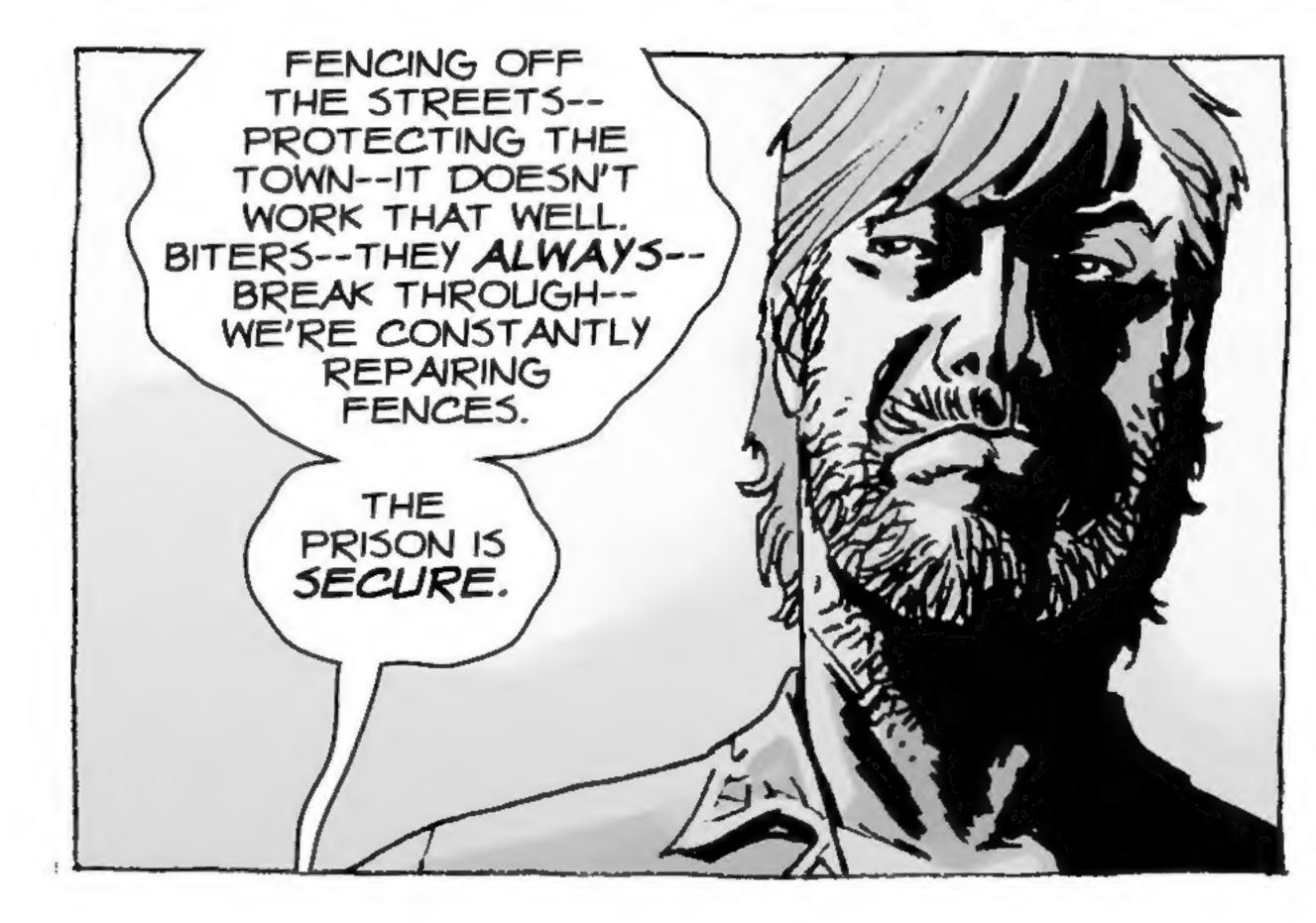






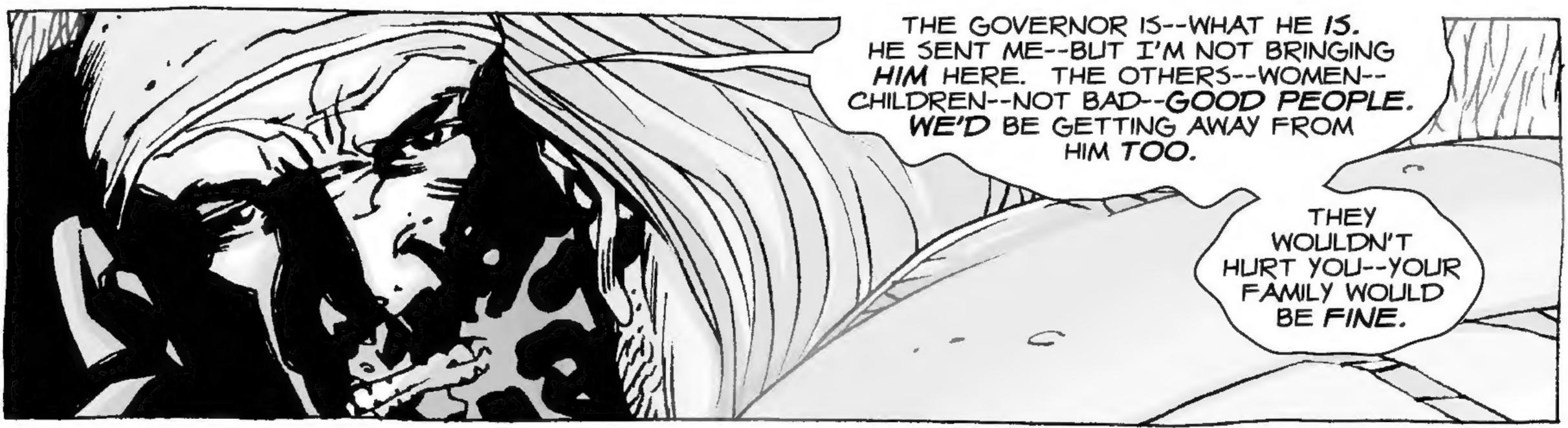






















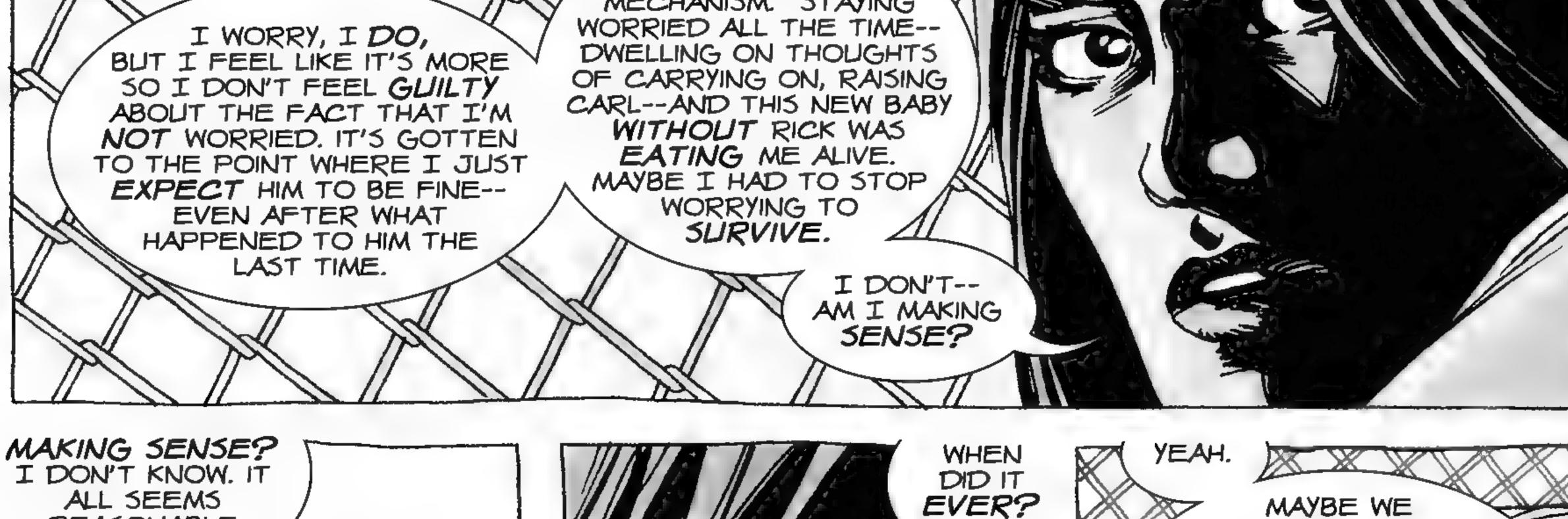


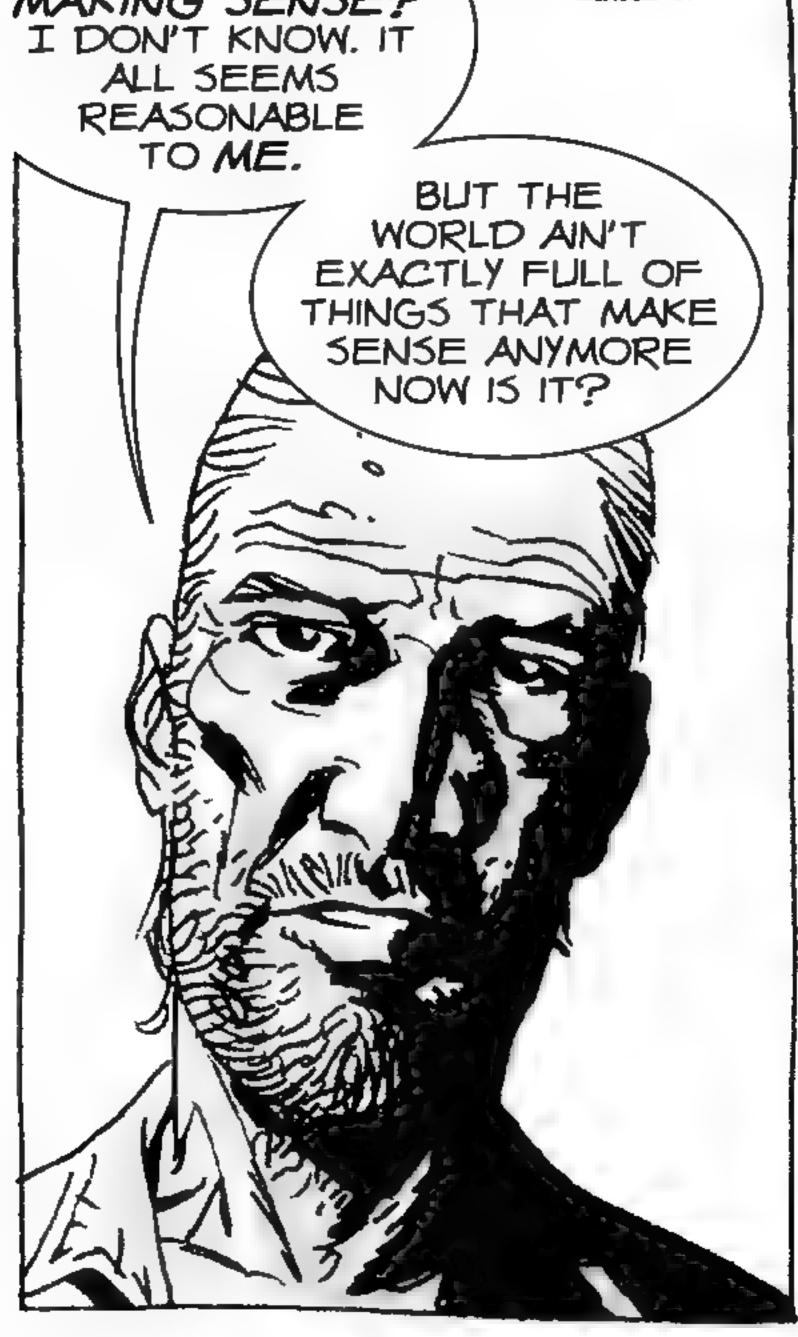




IT'S NOT THAT I CARE LESS ABOUT RICK, IT'S NOT THAT AT ALL. IT'S JUST, HE ALWAYS COMES BACK. AT THIS POINT I'D BE MORE SURPRISED IF HE DIDN'T RETURN.

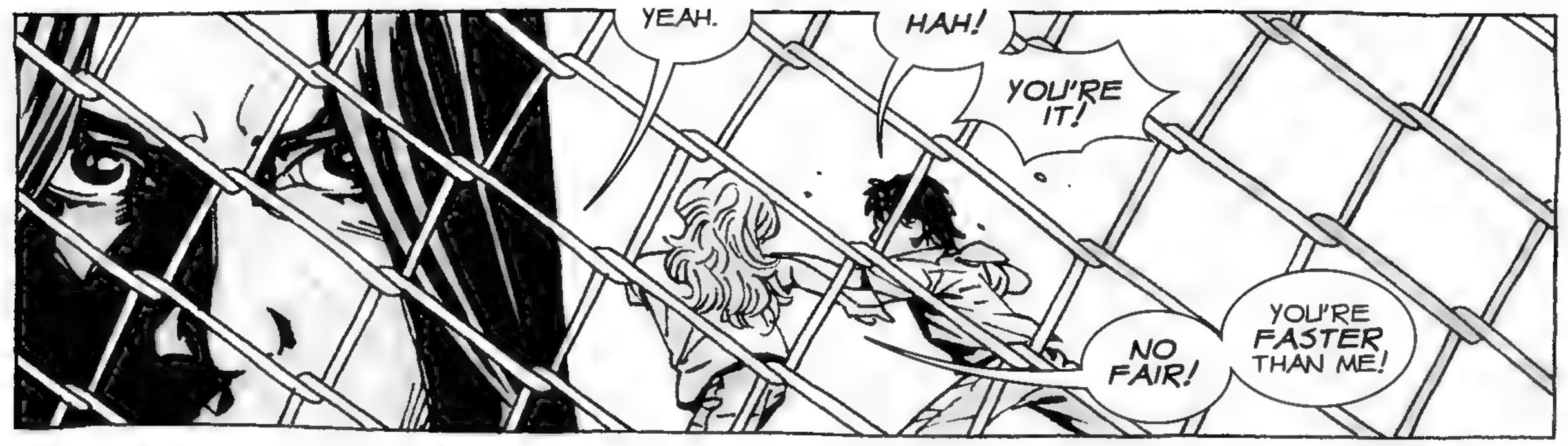
MAYBE THAT'S JUST A DEFENSE MECHANISM STAYING WORRIED ALL THE TIME--DWELLING ON THOUGHTS WITHOUT RICK WAS EATING ME ALIVE. MAYBE I HAD TO STOP WORRYING TO

















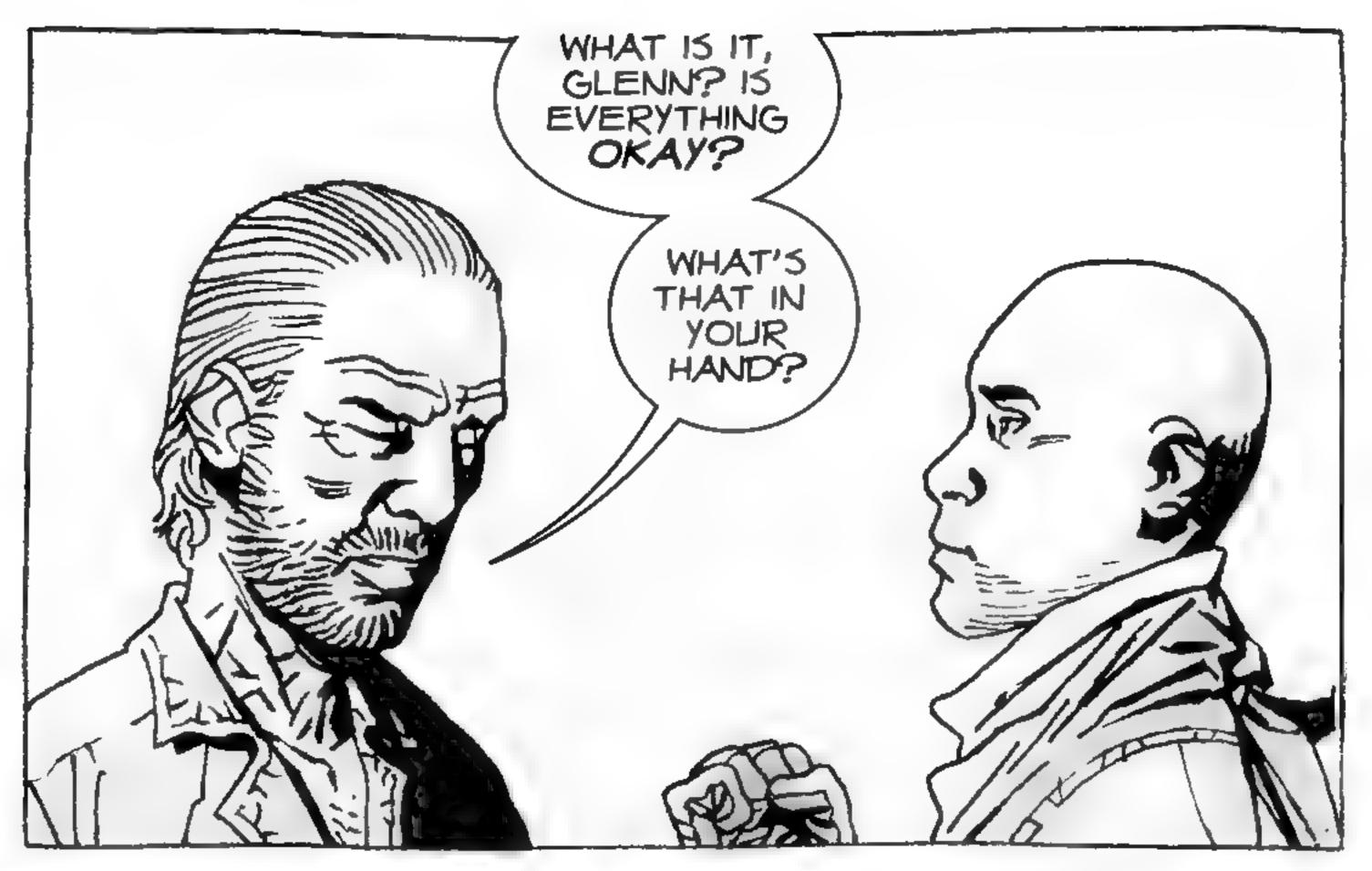














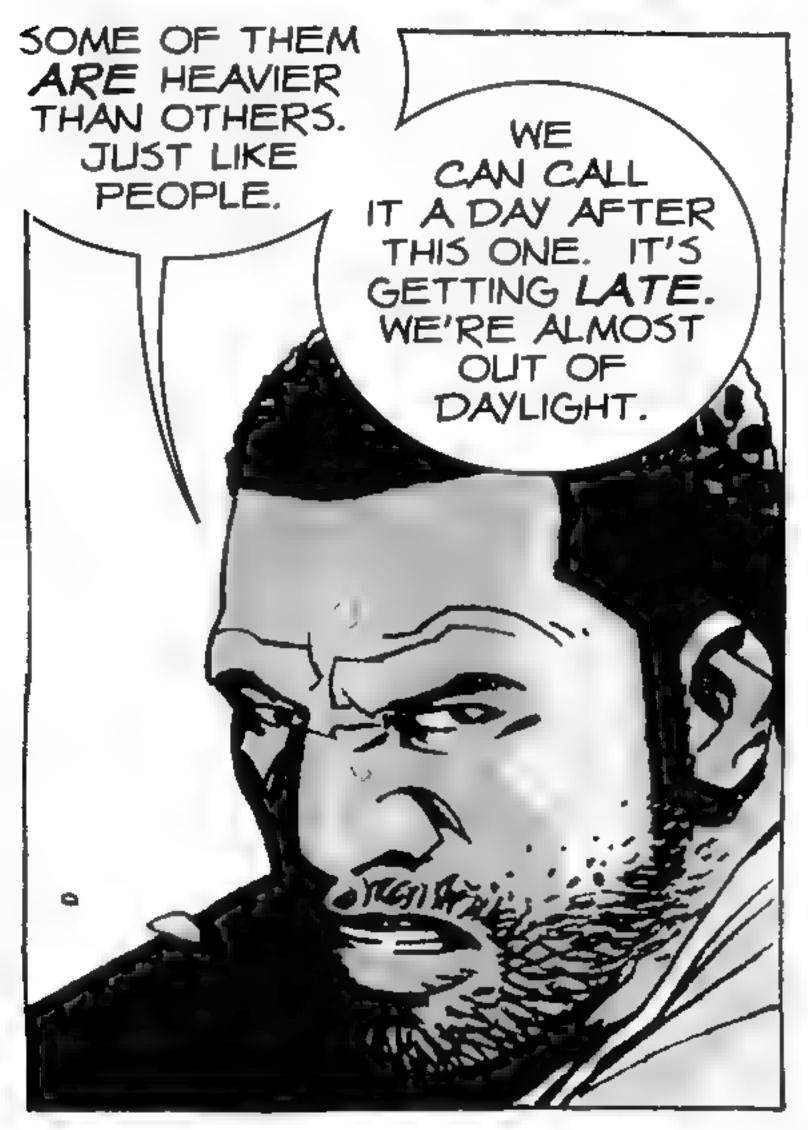








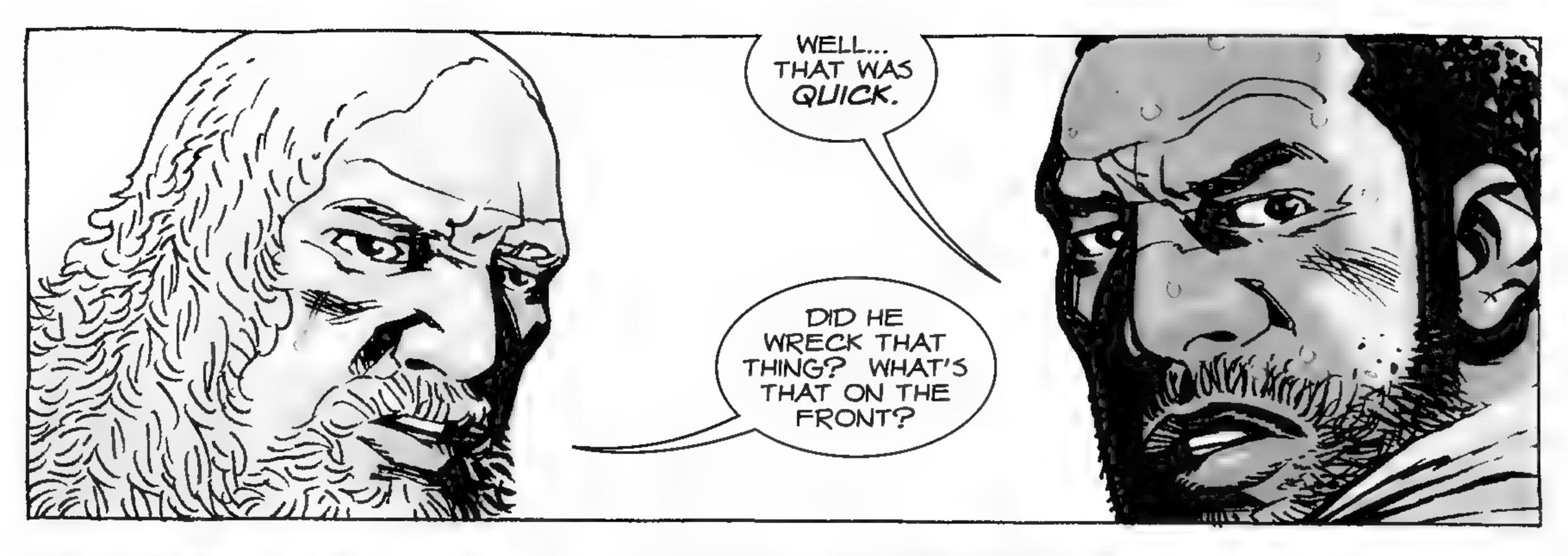




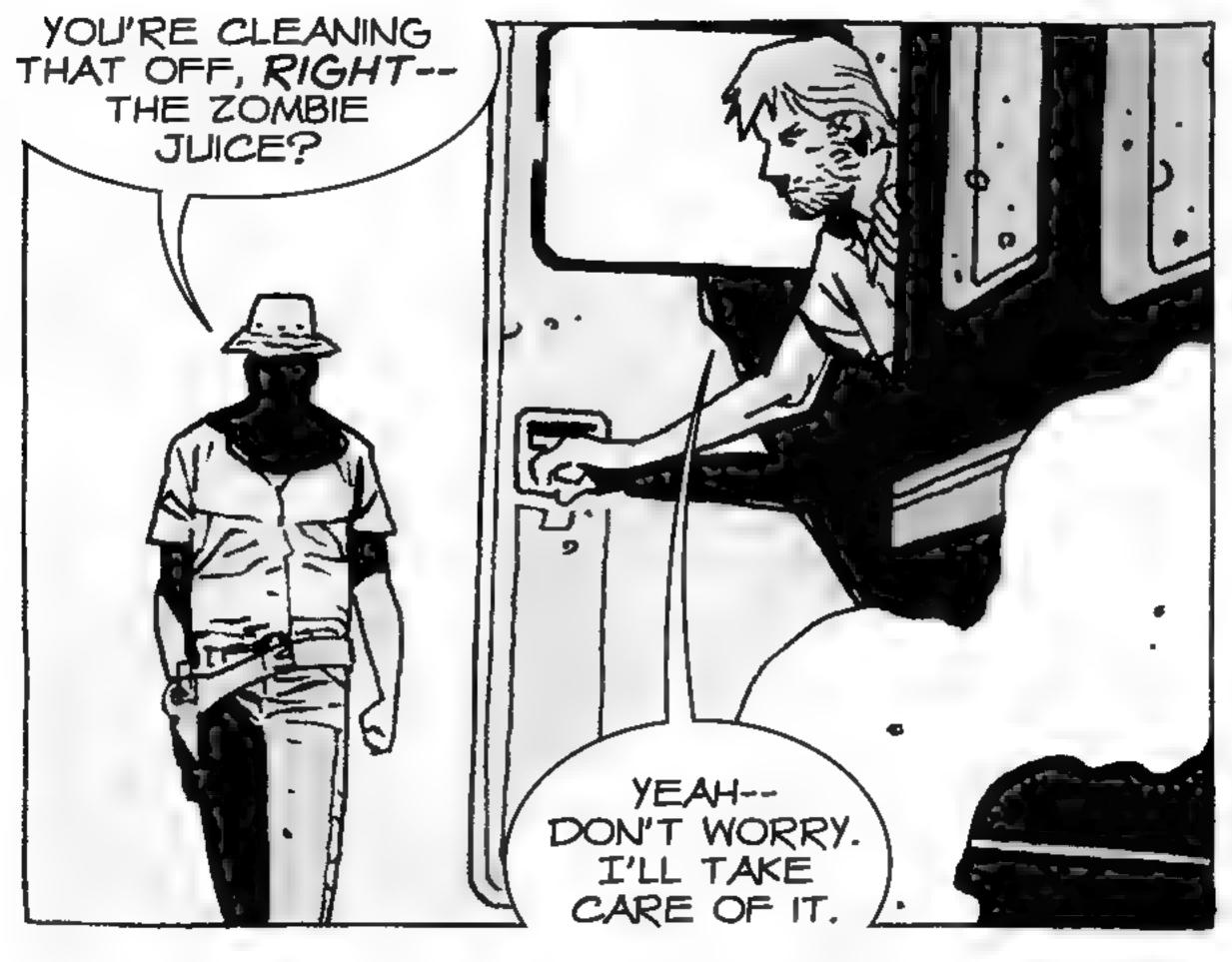










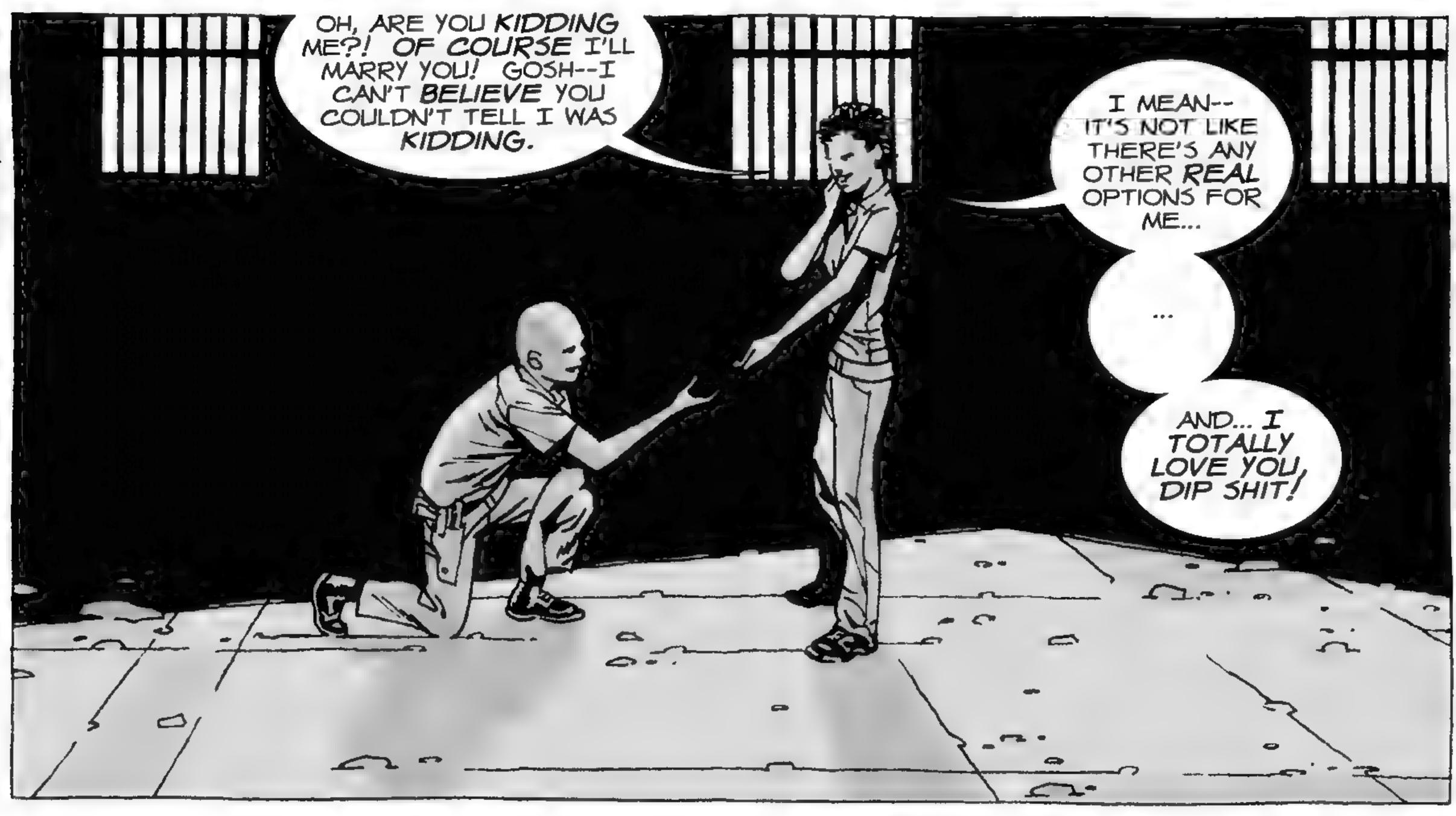




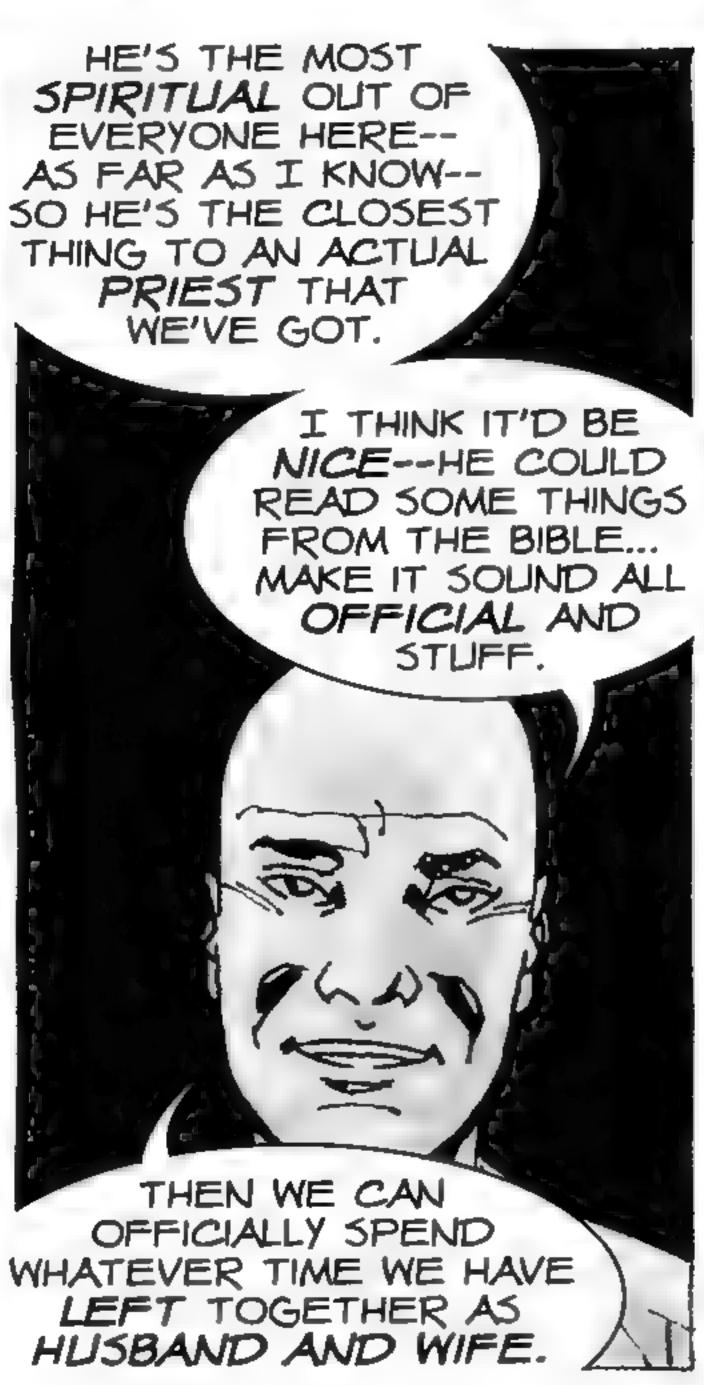




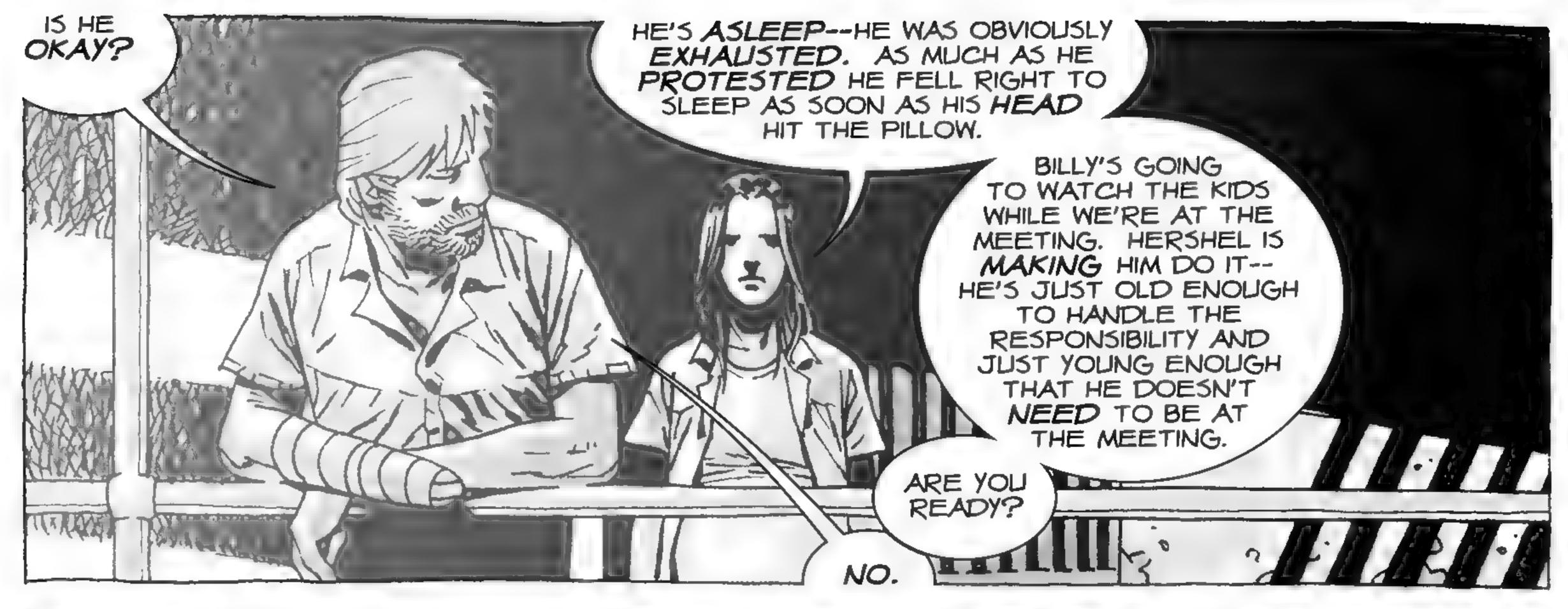














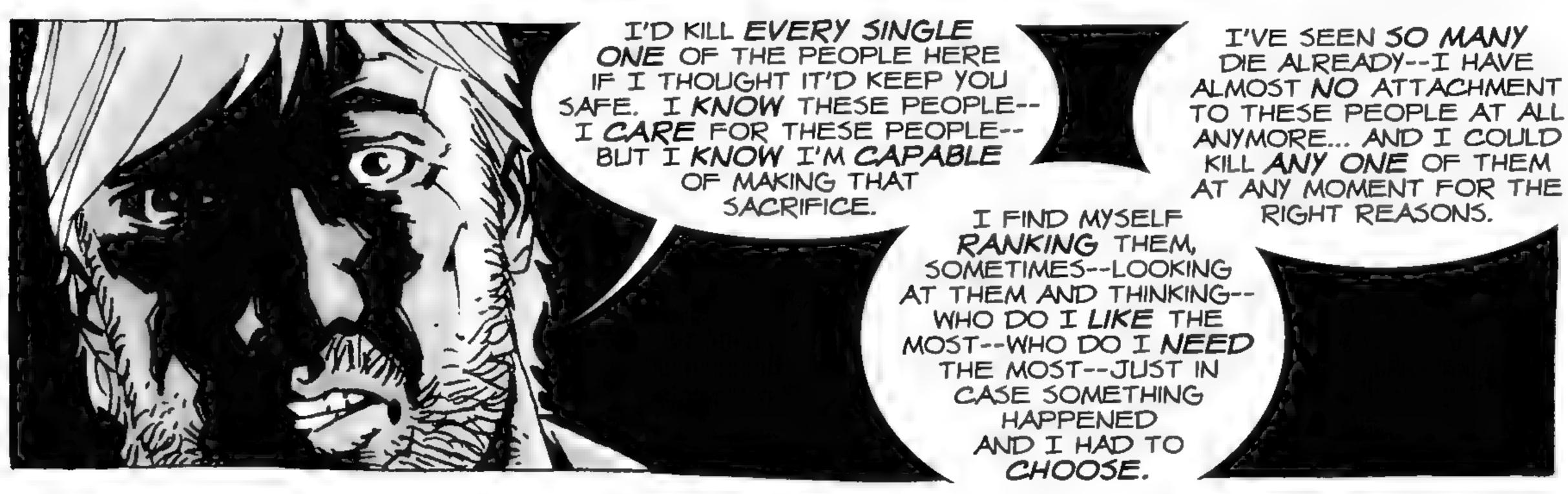








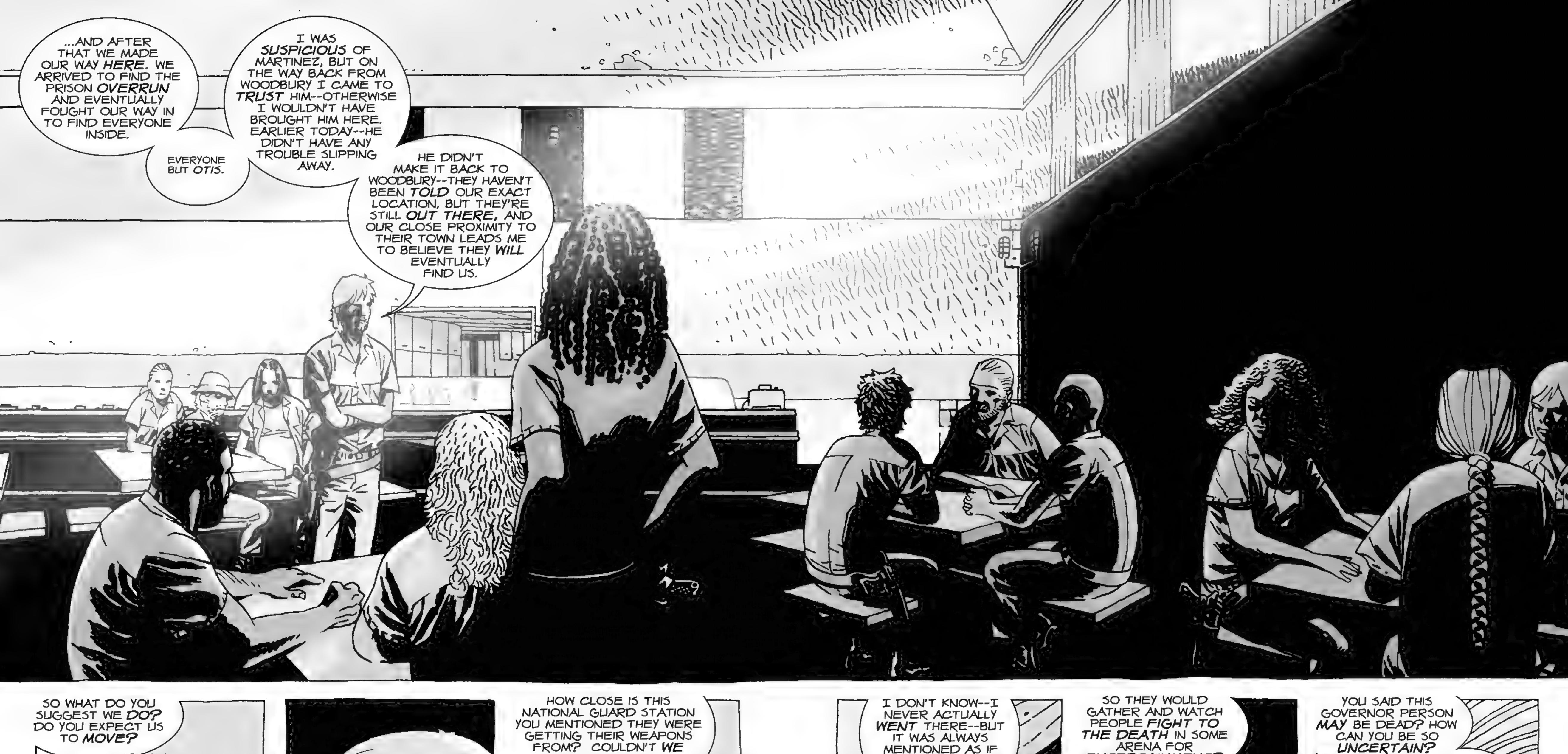














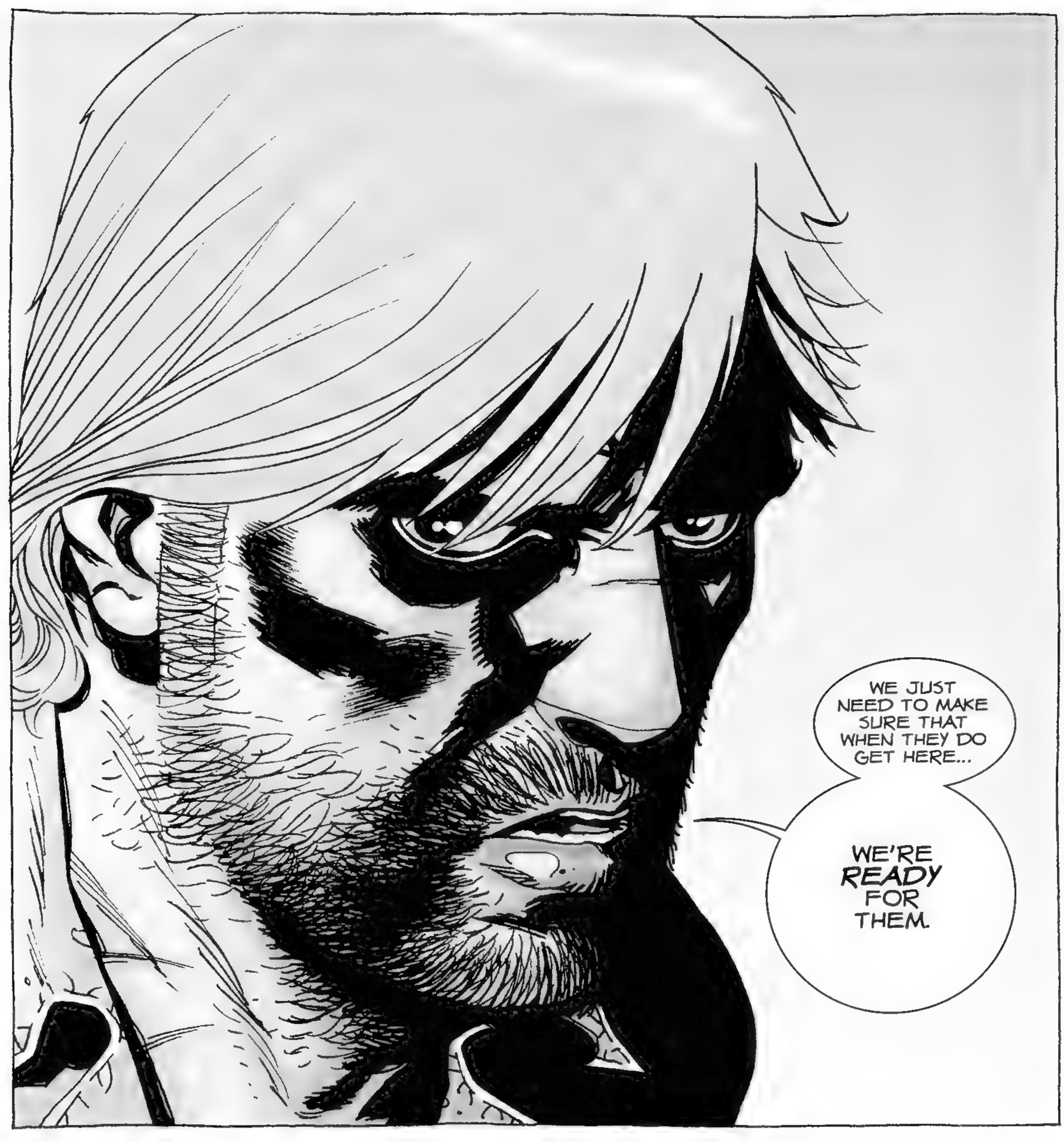














The ninth month begins...





WRITE TO US AT:

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OR

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Be back here very soon for issue 37. We're monthly or better from here on out--you watch!

Not a lot of time right now as this issue needs to go to the printer and this letters column is looking to be a long one--so here goes!

On to the mail!

Wow, first let me say that you are the 2nd comic book writer I have ever written to. The first being Mike Carey after the final issue of his Lucifer series. You are easily my favorite writer next to him and your series Walking Dead was the lynch-pin that re-entered my mind back into the world of comic books. So thank you for all your work.

That being said.

WOW!

I just finished reading #33 of Walking Dead and I was completely floored. I knew at the end of #32 that the Governor was going to get some come uppin's, but never in my wildest dreams could I have imagined the torture he went through. I have never shouted "WHOA!" at a comic book before and this issue was simply amazing. It was just brilliant writing and Charlie Adlard is also brilliant with the way he interpreted everything you put out there. And the cliffhanger with the governor's demise was priceless. I didn't really care for him at first (besides for the obvious reasons) but now I simply can't wait to hear what has finally happened to him.

Thank you so much. Your writing has affected me like only a select few have...

Ben Beesley

Thanks for the kind words, Ben--I'm glad you enjoyed the issue.

Kirkman,

I love your comics, Walking Dead and Invincible. Issue 33 was very intense. My question is probably obvious but I must ask anyway, does Michonne suffer from multiple personalities? I could not tell if she was faking or not at the end of the issue.

Have a great day, Joe Hampton

You want me to just give something like that away here in the letters column? All I'll say is that it certainly SEEMS that way right now--doesn't it?

Kirkman,

From the Desk of the Governor,

Memo to self- Next time a wild-eyed woman with a samurai sword shows up, DO NOT SCREW WITH HER!!!

God DAMN, that was effin' BRUTAL!!! Keep up the good work.

Shawn Michael Scott Brandon, FL

Thanks.

Mr. Kirkman,

This was the most sickening and disgusting thing I have ever seen in a comic book. Kirkman you are sick for writing it, Adlard is sick for drawing it and let me not forget Mr. Rathburn.

Keep up the good work guys! Raymond Singh

Are you not sick for reading it?

I want to thank you for not shying away from your depiction of the governor's torture in issue 33. I abhor violence in real life and am therefore often conflicted about reading comics that employ violence in their stories. Often violence is obscured or stylized in such a way as to make it more palatable, but your comic reminded me that I have the same concerns in seeing Batman beat up a crook as I do in this torture scene.

This issue made me reconsider my overall reading habits; I too easily ignore my apprehensions in search of entertainment. I considered giving up TWD after Michonne was raped and tortured in 28/29. The portrayal of violence was

pc4unsettlingand left me concerned, but I recognized that this could be intended as a literary device, so I stayed to see your conclusion—after all, I haven't been able to anticipate where your storylines have proceeded. I was hoping for an end I found both entertaining and congruent with my ethical views (though I certainly didn't have one in mind!), but instead it appears I was simply to be made to hate the governor in order for the torture issue to provide a climax. I won't accept the use of violence as a payoff for violence.

Individuals do things I find reprehensible, and in a setting such as the world of TWD it is easy to see how people's baser instincts may more easily be expressed. I understand that these are fictional characters working within this world, but you and I are very much real and have responsibilities to ourselves and others. As such, I feel that to satisfy my personal ethics I cannot continue to support this book, even though I usually find it so engrossing and entertaining. I am headed back to my comic shop to return this issue and remove the title from my pull list. I'm not sure which titles will follow TWD off my list; I recognize that these concerns are applicable to many other works.

Thank you for considering my views. I hope they at least engender discussion; I know I have much to reassess myself.

Best wishes, Dan Felty

Different strokes for different folks, I suppose. Violence is a part of life, a part of history--it's written into our very genetic code. You've never been angry enough to punch a wall? You're going to have a HARD time avoiding violence in the world we live in. The Walking Dead should be the LEAST of your worries.

Good luck.

Dear Mr. Kirkman,

After reading Walking Dead 33, I've been debating for the past day whether to drop the series entirely. The graphic, extended portrayal of the torture suffered by the mayor, while understandable from a storytelling perspective, simply struck me as too much of a descent into torture for torture's sake. Even worse, it smacks of lazy writing; such a detailed descent into gore seems to indicate an inability to more succinctly portray the savagery of Michonne's revenge (and the further dehumanization this revenge may unleash upon her). While I can understand the need to graphically portray the horror of living in a world filled with zombies, this past story arc has moved beyond supernatural cruelty to a kind of voyeuristic torture porn, one that I don't enjoy reading. While I've ultimately decided to stick around to see what the next few issues might bring (reluctantly, I might add), if the series continues to seek stomach-turning instead of storytelling, well, I'm hope the new fans you attract are sufficient to replace the ones who've left.

Sincerely, James Seidler "Voyeuristic torture porn." I wonder if we can put that on the cover.

The sum of the story of The Walking Dead is far greater than one part. I find it bizarre, frankly, that a long time reader can read ONE ISSUE and start to worry the series will be that way from now on. If I did an issue that was light-hearted and had jokes in it, would you worry this was becoming a comedy book? I think issues 34, 35 and 36 have proven that the Woodbury arc, while have vast repercussions on the overall story of the series, have NOT changed the book to an unrecognizable degree.

Have a LITTLE faith.

Dear Captain Kirkman,

Hey, wasn't this issue just a lillittle sadistic? Sure the guvnor did bad things to Michonne, but nothing like that, right?? And that was the whole issue! Hopefully this is the end of Woodbury and we can get back to the real cast, huhn? Some real drama there, but best to bury it all. As for Ant-Man, in reguards to my letter(and your response) printed in TWD #33, well, Stan Lee may have created Ant-Man, yes. But as I recall he gave him several colors on the original costume: Red, some blue and, you guess it--Black! Spider-Man is going back in black too, ya know. I'm looking forward to another Kirkman series soon, maybe at Image! Not that I know there's gonna be one, it's just, I want there to be one. Yeah. Hey maybe Michonne will stay violent and turn psycho-killer back at the prison, huh? Who was that little girl, anyway? The guvnor's daughter? How'd she break down that door in that one scene? Cause it looked like she did anyway. So, again, a down issue this time. I think for one issue a month, we deserve more dialog than this! Oh, and I think you should write Ultimate Spider-Man, too! That is if BMB ever comes up for air.

Sincerely, Andrew J. Shaw

Did you say NEW SERIES?! Surely by now you've all heard about THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN?! It's my new creator-owned series from Image, debuting on MAY 7th-that's right--FREE COMIC BOOK DAY. That means the first issue of this cool new series is ABSOLUTELY FREE! No need to gamble on a new series and waste those hard-earned bucks. Just swing by your local retailer and grab a copy of issue 1. If you like it, come back later and buy issue 2. If you don't like it--you have no soul and should seek spiritual help.

MAY 7th!!

Mr. Kirkman,

Michonne goes HARD CORE! Yikes. I was expecting her to go Postal on the Gov', but this issue has got to be the most violence I have ever enjoyed in all my years of reading comics. "When I nailed your Prick to the board." I had to pause and let that sink in for a minute or two. I flashed back to the scene in Pulp Fiction where Butch goes back to save Marsellus from the clutches of the guys with the Gimp, only Michonne uses the

hardware she picked up. The spoon goes from the ass blaster, to the eye ball popper. My only complaint is that the sword on the floor looks to be really close to the Gov' - he shouldn't have needed to dive for it, but I can forgive.

Yeah--cut us some slack on that one. Thanks.

Crazy shit like this is why I love WD. I started with issue 18, and was hooked. Had to run back to Comics Etc. in Rochester, NY and pick up all the TPB and back issues that I could score. Thank you for putting out such a compelling mag. How about a little WD Giant Sized issue in the near future? You know your man-friend Bendis did it in Powers - I don't think that the WD should be out done, do you?

I think the chances of me being outdone by BENDIS these days have dwindled down to slim and none. You're a HACK, B!! ;-)

Can't wait to see round II. You know the Gov' won't die from these flesh wounds, would he?

Thanks for writing my favorite monthly, Andrew Cup

The current health status of the Governor remains to be seen.

Hey Kirkman--

Thanks for crossing my line.

I've been not writing a letter about Michonne for what seems a long time now. I'm pretty sure I scribbled something about high hopes for her character when the first cover with her was previewed. Kind of didn't matter what her story was, I just wanted it to start. But issue after issue, the story never really got into her point of view or spent very much time even around her. But whatever, you know? Month after month each issue was 1) always over way too fast, 2) awesome-lookin', and c) always provocative. You couldn't ask for more. Sometimes I've been frustrated (by my own unfulfilled desires), sometimes thrilled, but the letter (about Michonne and/or everything else that was/is happening in TWD and it's place and comment in our ongoing times yadda yadda) never got written.

Mostly because it didn't have to be. Because I was in good hands. I might want this or that to proceed at a different pace, wish this or that had gone differently, but that's life. Where other comics make me think, "That guy doesn't know shit about shit," when they're frustrating me -- you know, like I have such a deeper understanding about how things would REALLY go in a world where people wear costumes or whatever -- by contrast the frustrations you've presented in TWD always seemed... like the frustrations of life.

Immutable. Deaf to a plea. But also real, and better faced-up-to than imagined away -- a tactic that's never worked. I would read the frustrated letters and laugh, or rail in your defense; jackass clowns, angry that you weren't taking their psychic story notes.

Aw, man, and then you went for Michonne's

rape arc. Rape in entertainment is so tired to me. But what is zombie fiction about, if not the question of who we are, and what would all-of-us-among-us become if unfettered by law and institutionalized power? And rape by despots is a trope in zombie fiction by that very principle. Predators are certainly among us still. But I didn't like it. ...but I didn't write, either. Because I'm not going to get everything I want, much less when (vicariously) living in the zombie apocalypse. Still, it smarted; here I feel that I've been patiently waiting to get to the Michonne storyline, and it's this. It stinks. Oh, well. Figgered, Michonne'll get her revenge and then we can move on -- hopefully to who she is and what her deal is, although right about now I'm really wondering what's going on back with the others.

But here we are at issue #33 (imagine my surprise walking into some comic shop on a Friday and seeing the cover, after having been to MY *unnamed* shop Wednesday and not seen it!) and it gets to the torture of the Governor. And it's sweet vengeance. Now Kirkman, this is where we get to you crossing my "line" and all. Looks like I finally had to write. Here I thought we were deep in my touchy territory with the rape and that I was going to be able to ride it out. But my experience reading this torture issue was a real harrower, from the anticipation when I flipped through the first few pages, thinking, "Oh, yeah! Here we go..." I loved it. And I wanted it. And I didn't want it to be short. I wanted you to take your time (and see, it's checkmate Michonne in three pages -- and SHE wants her time, too). Talk about getting what you wish for.

Thing of it is, I do believe there is a kernel of hate at the core of the human psyche. Dark times have been the context in which TWD operates since it first hit the shelves, and Regis Christ! Kirkman, has shit just been getting heavier and heavier, or what? I can only imagine that having a newborn gives you a vibrant point of referrence for the things happening both inside and without the United States these last years, and their implications for the future. It's that dark core of humanity's which is ascendant right now, institutionalized, and which has led us to where we are. Now that I think of it, Romero's DAY OF THE DEAD is the story I associate with my first instance of that sort of rogue militia-crazy, intimate physical threat vibe that resonates throughout the late Governor's story arc. And DOTD was released in '85, when the fruits of what Reagan (and Thatcher) was doing (with tax cuts to the super-rich leading to the gutting of national reserves, the unfettering of corporate desires, and seeding international terror with the Central American death squads and Afghanistan and whatnot) and which have led us directly to where we are today, would just be starting to show. But only just. And only if you were paying attention. Romero's prescience is staggering.

Whoo boy am I long-winded in getting to the point. Sorry, Kirkman. Didn't mean to get my politics in your comics. Mmm... they taste great together! (sorrysorry, couldn't help myself) But it does get to my point. I feel like there's also great hope and capacity for love in humans. That part's getting its ass kicked in the bigger picture right now. All around. So I guess I'm feeling a little sensitive about the whole Mitchum Love-Hate thing is all. You know,

feeling like we're fighting to keep the humane part of humanity's proverbial head above water and there you go walking me deep into real identification with hate.

And that, in half a dozen nutshells, is why I write. To give thanks. For not being tepid or half-assed in these times of particularly tepid, half-assed entertainment. For taking me places that I don't want to go, in ways that I can't but help understand. Here's to hoping you find the forces of hope slugging away in there when you look inside your head, Kirkman.

Because that's what we need.

Some lingering thoughts on the progeny of DAY OF THE DEAD... The dove-tailing fears of the rogue milita and rape have become a constant in zombie fiction, escalating in excess long after the insight has been wrung dry (good ol' rape never gets old). This particular manifestation has come to dominate as the face of evil in the imagined future. Most recently in popular fiction, 28 DAYS LATER and Briane Keene's pedestrian CITY OF THE DEAD come to mind. Cannonized, calsified and brittle -- even if it IS the odds-on favorite of how things might play out today. So I read Stephen King's CELL last weekend, not expecting to like it (even though I consider King to have been "back" for a number of years now); the cell phone angle is really corny in my mind. But it turns out King takes a fresh swing at what to do with that kernel of hate at the center of mankind's mind. And that cell phone angle works, and has some real cultural frisson about it. He's a Master. He knows how to give you the iconic genre stuff you want, but also throw it around in unexpected ways. And he telescopes his rules for proximity throughout in a way that I thought was fucked up (in the good way).

Oh, and have you checked out the movie DEAD CREATURES? It's British, '01, regular city girls, slowly rotting away in the underground, watching TV and eating "leftovers" from tupperware. But not cutesy at all! I think it's about the fears they were having about Mad Cow. Not the world's best film, but ripe with interesting ideas and a personal zombie favorite.

And we couldn't possibly move on without commenting on the Adlard/Rathburn team. Outstanding. It's like they keep getting... deeper. And Adlard's characterizations and performances keep notching up. Good stuff. A major part of what I'm looking forward to, issue to issue.

Wow--I see we're getting to some questions in a minute and wanted to say thanks for writing such a long damn letter! It means a lot to me to have someone spending so much of their time on something like this. It's a real testament to your love for the book and it really warms my heart.

Although, I must say, I was reading going "he hates it, no he likes it, no he hates it, no he--" boy is my head spinning. Anyway- onto your questions.

QUESTION! Do you have a take on what's caused the outbreak? I'm not asking for it, just, do YOU have any leading theories?

Honestly, I would never nail something like

this down until I had to WRITE it and I don't ever plan on writing it. There's a number of causes in my head and few scenes I have in mind to explain things-but I don't see any reason to nail things down to a definitive answer until it has to be committed to the page. And since that will never happen...

QUESTION! Do you know who any of the characters in other, untold parts of this world would be? Or do you know what other storylines you would pursue (in a world where you were writing other TWD stories)?

There are certainly other people out there in the rest of the world. We will never see ALL of them in this title, though.

QUESTION! Do the cry babies that whine about the release schedule know that they should just be giving thanks for getting that good shit every time?

Well, I'm fine with people complaining about the schedule when we fall behind-that just means they want to read the book-and that's what I WANT. But I hope they stop complaining SOON because this book is so on schedule now.

QUESTION! Will we be finding out more about Michonne soon? Ever? Will she be playing larger role in the community? (I'm assuming there's a there to go back there to... watch, the prison is in flames)

We'll learn more about Michonne as the story continues, I promise.

QUESTION! Where/how can I see this TWD Christmas episode?

I just printed it in issue 34. Hope you liked it.

QUESTION! Hahaha! People still think you bit 28 Days!

Sandra Bullock rocks.

QUESTION! At the Prison, did Michonne ever work out or practice forms and stances outside? Where the others might watch?

If she did--we didn't see it.

QUESTION! When will anyone ask Michonne to teach them some martial arts? Do you have a take on specific styles she knows? Or is she just an angry woman who stumbled across a sword?

She doesn't know any formal martial arts. She took fencing in college.

QUESTION? More kung fu!

I'll see what I can do.

QUESTION! How PSYCHED are you for Tony Moore's return to FEAR AGENT? AND their plans to trade arcs between him and Opena?

I'm psyched to see Tony drawing ANY comic. I wish they came out more frequently.

Keep up the good work, Kirkman. This is one of a tiny number of titles that I look forward to with real anticipation. So where are we going now?

thanks again, Andrew Garcia-Price

We're going on to the next letter, you longwinded fool!

Just wanted to let you know that Michonne getting pay back on the governor was justified!!! Great story line and keep up the good work.

Sincerely, Bobby W. Chamberlain

P.S. what if that guy helping them escape is a spy leading the town to the prison?

You may be onto something.

Dear Kirkman,

Holy Shat, issue 33 was amazing. I always wondered how sadistic Michonne was. It kinda makes me wonder if she's done this before. Even though it went by so fast, I had to look over every square inch of each scene numerous times to grasp it all. By far this is my favorite issue. Keep up the good work.

-Shane Marsh

Thanks.

Kirkman,

First off, thanks for writing this book. I came in around issue 16 or 17. I was bored and had down time between jobs in the field and I stopped by a record shop that sold comics. I asked the guy if there were any zombie comics and he directed me to TWD. Out of curiosity I purchased a couple of issues and read them in the parking lot. I was instantly hooked and continued to read the second one while driving, yikes! I think most people remember what they were doing while they read their first WD comic; it's like remembering where you were on 9/11.

Not QUITE the same, but go on...

Subsequently I returned to a larger comic book store (The Comic Bug, in Manhattan Beach, Ca, which to my dismay partially burned down due to a fire at the cleaners next door). Anyways, I bought the TPB's and caught up immediately and have read them every month since then. Returning to the store I have also begun to follow DMZ, Y, Invincible, Goon and a few others. I even bought TWD issue number one on ebay for about \$55.00. Will you be at Comicon in 2007? I'd like to have it signed! Anyhow, here are a few questions/ grievances.

I'll be there. I'm sure I can be found at the Image booth or the Marvel booth at various times during the con.

1.) To the guys that were offended by Michonne's

rape and torture, let me remind you that Morgan is raising his son Duane. It would have been such a cliche if his mother was raising him and his father had been out of his life since he was an infant. Tyreese was democratically elected to lead the group, Rick was not, so an african-american man is now the leader of the group. Also, if you had to be stuck in zombie central, I'm sure most of us would pick to be with Tyreese or Michonne WAY before we'd pick Glenn, Dale, Axel, Carol, Lori...ok, maybe I'd pick Carol, but that's besides the point. You get my point, the two proven and battle hardened survivors are black. Whereas the weaklings, the psychos and most of the zombies are white, or grey.

Amen, brother!

2.) This question is a bit more personal. I have written short stories for many years. Since reading WD I have wanted to write my own comics, not zombie stories though. Where would I start off in getting my scripts noticed or accepted? Since I am ok financially I would be doing this for fun. I think that gives me an edge right?

It's an uphill battle no matter what. There's too much to say for me to fit it in here--there are countless essays and stuff written on the subject that can be found on the internet pretty easily.

3.) Have you seen the trailer for the new Day of the Dead? You Tube it if you haven't it's interesting, though typically Hollywoodish.

I'm still holding out hope that it could be cool. I wish Ving was playing the same character from Dawn though.

Thanks for reading this. I hope it is published and I can have some small part in the great WD. Manny Lerma

It's published--welcome to the smallest possible part of history available.

Hey Robert,

Issue 33 sure was great, but that is not what this letter is about. First I want to thank you for you recommendations you gave me a few issues back, I sure you don't remember but I was the guy who sent you the letter about how I was boycotting Image because of the whole Todd and Neil thing over Miracleman. I have added quite a few titles to my monthly pull now, everything from Girls to Invincible to Fell. I can't believe what I was missing. Don't get me wrong, I would love Neil to finish his story, but damn, I was really missing out. Secondly, I want back and reread the whole series and I think I noticed something so I have a few questions:

1) In issue 20, is that Thomas's dead body that the other zombie get's his intestine caught on and falls?

YES IT IS! I think you're the first to notice this. Good eye.

2) If it is, how the hell did he get his glasses

back on, at the end of issue 18 when Maggie shots him he is not wearing them.

I think it's pretty obvious that he had a back-up pair in his pocket.

3) Is our gang going to go out looking for other survivors or try to contact anyone else after what Rick, Michonne and Glenn just went thru, I mean they all can't be bad (can they)?

I think survival is the priority now--no need to find more people until you can safely live with the people you have.

Well that's all for now, oh yeah one last thing, I have been selling cars for about 5 years now, and if this comic thing doesn't work out give me a call, Big ugly guys like you do pretty well (just kidding)

Erik Porter

Did you just call me UGLY? I know for a fact and am a quite handsome dude. Next time I get shit like that from you I'm totally not printing your letter.

Yo Robert,

Just got issue #33..... I have a few words for you...

This has to be the most sick, twisted, gross, nasty, warped, cruel piece of work you have ever done.

Keep up the good work...

Rod Paddock

Glad you liked it.

Damn but issue #33 was THE most disturbing, most brutal thing I have ever seen in a comic. I have only one thing to say to you, you sadistic bastard.

God bless you.

Coming from an agnostic that pretty good praise. As I said in my first letter, I have been with this series from issue #1 and I'm still surprised at the unique twists. I mean everybody knows Michonne is crazy, but we didn't expect batshit insane. Some will undoubtedly say it was too much however and will bitch and moan about some sort of racist undertones. I didn't see them myself but some people just HAVE to read more into things than are really there. I actually got my wife who does get several comics on her own to read this issue! This is remarkable because she won't watch any zombie movies at all, she finds the whole concept disturbing on a deep psychological level. Anyway just wanted to say I'm still here and will continue buying this series until either you give up or I'm dead. On the other hand given what I'm reading why should I let a pesky little thing like death stop me?

P.S. Congrats on the baby and enjoy these first years as much as you can. My oldest, Autumn is 10 and the twins Emily & Kaitlin are 7. Those years passed quickly! (I had to mention them, after my first letter they wanted to see their

names in print not that I'd let them read the book just yet)

Chris Lenkevich

Thanks for writing.

Man, Kirkmonster....

I knew Michonne would exact her own form of revenge if she got the chance but never in darkest side of my mind did I envision what happened in issue #33. (Okay, I actually did envision it that way but I have to pretend my mind doesn't go that dark.) Man, she really put it to the man, so to speak and all of his various man parts. Well, after what he did to her, he deserved all that and maybe more. It would be amazing if he managed to pull through just to see what kind of crap he would try to pull next. I don't see how he is going to do that though. The various infections he should get from the things Michonne did (especially the spoon) probably will kill him if he doesn't die from shock.

That's what I'm saying.

Kirkman, I know you have to be channeling the zombie universe into your brain at night while you sleep. There is no way a nice boy from Kentucky could ever come up with this stuff...

You'd be surprised.

Keep on writing. I think maybe The Walking Dead is my favorite comic mag in the universe (don't worry, Invincible is right up there with it).

I hope you keep The Walking Dead walking for years to come.

Sincerely, Michael

That's the plan--we want to keep this thing going well past issue 300!

Robert,
Did you change the book's title from "The Walking Dead" to "Snuff Films Monthly" and not tell anyone?

Yes I did--Image fucked up the logo.

In my opinion, you crossed the line in terms of gratuitous violence with issue #33 - and that's saying a lot for a zombie book! It's too much - severing arms, pulling out eyeballs, graphic torturing! Suddenly we entered the realm of pornographic violence. You know what I'm talking about, where you're just dishing out the blood and mayhem to the delight and quasi-sexual gratification of the sicko groundlings - "Oh, look at those quivering entrails! See the spraying blood? That gets me hot!!" It's pandering, Kirkman and it's the lowest level of creativity that a writer can aspire too.

What can I say--we all have our off months. I think the issue is an important part of the tapestry of this book--but what do I know?

Wouldn't it have been more effective to have Michonne walk into the governor's room and close

the door behind her - then leave it to the reader's imagination about what her wrath drove her to do? No, you have to descend to the depths that every moronic horror film director in this generation falls to - "I have to show everything and leave nothing to the imagination!" What we're talking about here is a real dearth of imagination and an excess of blood-thirstiness - that's not a good thing, Robert. The love of excessive violence cannot be healthy, psychologically speaking, yet the media insists on drenching us in an overabundance of bile, blood and body parts and then everyone wants to know why things like Columbine happen. Yes, we all have personal responsibility in terms of our behavior, but what about YOUR responsibility? Would you really want some dumb ass emulating the torture scene you portrayed in this issue? If one is trained up in a society where savagery is presented as a justifiable solution to one's problems, some idiot WILL invariably choose it and then we all have to live with the repercussions.

It was always my plan to NOT show what happened to Michonne--to show the "closed door" as you suggest. But then when it came time for HER revenge--I wanted to show every single action taken against the Governor (aside from a few done while he was passed out).

The idea is that you never SEE the evil person's actions... but when the good person does their thing--you see just how evil they can be. It make you question the character-and hopefully yourself--especially if you're cheering them on the whole way.

There was SOME thought that went into the whole thing.

After a while, you can't get images such as these out of your brain pan. Is this what you see when you close your eyes? Must be hard to sleep at night. Thanks for contributing to my insomnia.

Sissy.

At least when you had Michonne getting raped you didn't show it in detail, I suppose we should be grateful for that!

You know, I can put up with a certain amount of blood, IF it drives a story, but you were pandering and you know it. I'm done with the book. I've been with you from the beginning, but I can't in good conscience continue if you're going to assault me with this level of unjustifiable savagery. Too bad. I enjoyed the character development a great deal. It was a pleasure picking up the book every month.

I'm sorry that you made the decisions you did.

Brian Schiavo

Well, I was totally regretting that "sissy" remark until now! Again, it's absurd to me that one issue makes you change you opinion of what the book is. Won't you feel kinda silly if this is the ONLY issue like this out of a 300 issue run and all the other ones are issues you'd like.

Foolish, man...

You know what bothers me about the Governor? It's the fact that he's really more a mayor, as he is only in charge of this one city, not an entire state. It seems he may not even know all that much about this area, since he doesn't know that there is a huge prison so close to his own city....But he is one of the best written villains in all of comics-Thanks for that. For writing such a great book every month. I just read #33, and I was surprised to see that the "Governor" survived. That is a bold and great decision, as much as I'm sure everyone expected to see him disposed of for what he did to the group, the thought of him returning one day makes me anxious to find out what else you have planned for him. I heard that Ant-Man is going to be an ongoing, that's great, I love it! I bet people ask you alot, but do you have anything in the works for Marvel Zombies?

Yeah.

Marvel Zombies Vs. Army of Darkness is a five issue thing I'm NOT writing but I'm consulting on that will be out very soon (probably around the same time as this issue).

Then Marvel Zombies: Dark Days is a prequel one-shot that will be out in MAY that is by the original team of Me, Sean Philips, June Chung and Arthur Suydam on covers.

Also in May, Black Panther and the new Fantastic Four travel to the zombie-verse in the regular Black Panther monthly series.

Then, in October or so, Me and the gang are back for Marvel Zombies 2--which is going to y'know--blow doors off!

I would love to read more of that, it would be a guaranteed big seller, and I would hate to see anyone but you writing it. One question, are there super heroes in the walking dead universe? Or would that a separate title called Image Zombies?

Thank you for all your effort on all your books, Daniel Reeves

There are no superheroes in The Walking Dead universe. This book is kinda running along as if this was happening in the real world.

And that brings our fine letters column to a close! I'll see you all back here in a few short weeks for issue 37--which will be IN STORES before the end of MARCH.

VIVA LA ON TIME COMICS!

-Robert Kirkman

100ha image

#1 A \$2.99

AFTER THE CAPE #1 (of 3) Ethan Falls was once a respected superhero - until his drinking got the better of him. Now he finds he is unable to provide for his young family, and his own sense of failure starts to beckon him towards easy money... and a life of crime!



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AFTER THE CAPE #1 (of 3)

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SAM NOIR: RONIN HOLIDAY #2

SAVAGE DRAGON #133

STRONG ARM #2

TEXAS STRANGERS #1

TRUE STORY, SWEAR TO GOD #5

WALKING DEAD #36

GRAND LARSEN

Kyle Baker is one of those cartoonists that make other cartoonists weak.

Now, understand that when I say "cartoonist", I don't mean somebody who draws cartoony, necessarily. Yeah, Charles Schultz and Bill Watterson and Johnny Hart are cartoonists, but so are Alex Toth and Neal Adams and Gil Kane and Robert Crumb and Joe Kubert and Frank Miller and Mike Mignola and Will Eisner and Todd McFarlane and Milton Canniff and Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko. A cartoonist is a person who writes and draws his or her own stories in comic form. That person can draw single illustrations or sequential stories that go on for thousands of pages, but if you come up with a story and draw it yourself-you're a cartoonist. Kyle Baker is a cartoonist.

And he's a damned good one.

Kyle has been in the business since 1983. His first work was assisting in inking backgrounds. He moved from there to inking, then to pencilling, then to writing, coloring and lettering—the whole shebang. And the frustrating thing to the rest of us is that he does it all incredibly well. He's a terrific storyteller—his dialogue is brilliant—he does dead—on caricatures, and it all seems effortless.

Back in the '80s he was one of the premiere inkers. He put down a gorgeous line and he was highly sought-after. Kyle worked his magic on numerous books and inked everybody from John Byrne to Marc Silvestri.

Unsatisfied with simply making other people's work look good, Kyle branched out to pencilling. He drew an adaptation of the Howard the Duck movie, DICK TRACY, THE SHADOW... he even drew the cover to my first-ever issue of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (Look it up--in was issue #287).

Kyle has done a lot of my favorite comics. I adored THE COWBOY

WALLY SHOW and I loved WHY I HATE SATURN and when "YOU ARE HERE" came along, I was floored. His stuff is so energetic and cinematic and gorgeous and FUN. It just LOOKS so good, and his dialogue is amazing. When I talk about his work to other cartoonists, I can see them slump down in defeat. Kyle kicks their ass, and they know it, and there's nothing they can do or say to change that. He's a force of nature. You can't fight it. There's no point in trying.

Which is why it pleases me to no end to welcome him to Image Comics.

Kyle ventured out a while back into self-publishing, and he put out some terrific books on his own, but the business side of self-publishing can really take its toll on a creative person. It's a lot of work, and it takes time and energy away from the creative part of the job. Luckily for Kyle (and us), Image Comics exists for the expressed purpose of handling such headaches and letting creators do what they do best: create.

We're kicking off Kyle's arrival at Image with the second Nat Turner collection, and there's plenty more to follow.

And to all other cartoonists out there...

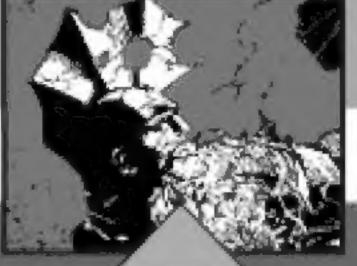
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